



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
[www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/822,083	04/08/2004	Mathieu Lion	25402-005	2211
32137	7590	10/06/2006	EXAMINER	
PATENT DOCKET CLERK COWAN, LIEBOWITZ & LATMAN, P.C. 1133 AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS NEW YORK, NY 10036				NGUYEN, TUAN N
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3751	

DATE MAILED: 10/06/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/822,083	LION ET AL.	
	Examiner Tuan N. Nguyen	Art Unit 3751	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 July 2006.  
 2a) This action is FINAL.                    2b) This action is non-final.  
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-37 is/are pending in the application.  
 4a) Of the above claim(s) 28 is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
 6) Claim(s) 1-27 and 29-37 is/are rejected.  
 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
 a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:  
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>See Continuation Sheet</u> . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
|   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Election/Restrictions***

1. Applicant's election with traverse of the species of Figs. 2 and 3 in the reply filed on 7/19/06 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that there are only two patentably distinct species: Figures 2-3 and Figure 9. This is found persuasive. Accordingly, claim 28 which directed to the non-elected species of Fig. 9 has been withdrawn from further consideration.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-4, 8-13, 15, 16, 19-23, 25, 26 and 30-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Peilet.

In regard to claims 1, 19-22, Peilet discloses a brush (Fig. 12) comprising a handle (132) having a flexible reservoir; and bristles (24) in communication with the reservoir. The introductory statement of intended use and all other functional phrases have been carefully considered but are deemed not to describe any structure patentably distinguishable over device that disclosed by Peilet which is certainly capable of being used in the claimed manner. In regard to claims 2 and 3, wherein both the handle and bristles are made of a material included in the group consisting of silicone or elastomer (see col. 2, lines 28-25). In regard to claim 4, wherein the handle containing the

reservoir is adapted to be held and applied by one hand. In regard to claim 8, the brush further comprises a nozzle (136) coupled to the handle, the nozzle being adapted to be manually disconnected from the handle and including the bristles. In regard to claim 9, wherein the nozzle and handle are adapted to be detachably engaged to one another by use of complementary shaped features. In regard to claims 10-13, the nozzle includes a cross channel (134) through which an item within the reservoir can be dispensed. The bristles extend from an end of the nozzle opposite an end interconnected to the handle, the bristles distributed around an outlet of the cross channel. The bristles are substantially evenly distributed around the cross channel to form at least one ring of bristles around the cross channel. Three concentric rings of bristles are distributed around the cross channel (see Fig. 3). In regard to claims 15 and 16, one of the handle and the nozzle includes at least one annular groove (142 or 144) and the other of the handle and the nozzle includes a ridge adapted to be detachably coupled to the groove (142 or 144). One of the handle and the nozzle including the at least one annular groove includes a tubular portion (138) in which the groove is disposed.

In regard to claim 23, the shape of the Peilet handle is considered as an elongated spindle.

In regard to claim 25, the bristles are made from a thermoplastic material.

In regard to claim 26, the nozzle is made from a thermoplastic material.

In regard to claim 30, the bristles are arranged in rows (see Fig. 3).

In regard to claim 31, the handle is made partially from silicone or elastomer.

In regard to claims 32-36, the claimed limitations have been addressed above.

3. Claims 1, 8-11, 14, 17, 18 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Landen et al. (hereinafter Landen).

Landen discloses a brush (Fig. 1) comprising a handle (10) having a flexible reservoir via piston (15); and bristles (13) in communication with the reservoir. The introductory statement of intended use and all other functional phrases have been carefully considered but are deemed not to describe any structure patentably distinguishable over device that disclosed by Landen which is certainly capable of being used in the claimed manner. The brush further comprises a nozzle (ferrule 11) coupled to the handle; the nozzle is made from metal and being adapted to be manually disconnected from the handle and including the bristles. The nozzle and handle are adapted to be detachably engaged to one another by use of complementary shaped features. The nozzle includes a cross channel (24) through which an item within the reservoir can be dispensed. The bristles extend from an end of the nozzle opposite an end interconnected to the handle, the bristles distributed around an outlet of the cross channel. Each of the bristles has a length of between 15 and 40 mm (see col. 3, line 65 et seq.). One of the handle and the nozzle includes three annular grooves centered on a common axis and the other of the handle and the nozzle includes three ridges (the threads 21 of nozzle 11 and the complimentary threads of handle 10), each of the ridges adapted to be detachably coupled to a respective one of the three grooves. The nozzle and the bristles are made from different materials.

4. Claims 1 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wise.

Wise discloses a brush (Fig. 2) comprising a handle (18) having a flexible reservoir; and bristles (16) in communication with the reservoir. The introductory statement of intended use and all other functional phrases have been carefully considered but are deemed not to describe any structure patentably distinguishable over device that disclosed by Wise which is certainly capable of being used in the claimed manner. The handle further includes an externally disposed rib, which includes an orifice (75).

5. Claims 1, 29, 32 and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hamm.

Hamm discloses a brush (Fig. 4) comprising:  
a handle having a flexible reservoir via pressing or pulling on it,

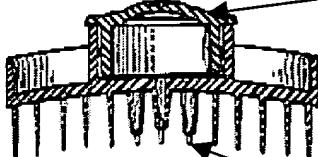


FIG. 4

a nozzle including at least one hollow bristles in communication with the reservoir. The introductory statement of intended use and all other functional phrases have been carefully considered but are deemed not to describe any structure patentably distinguishable over device that disclosed by Hamm which is certainly capable of being used in the claimed manner.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 5-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Peilet.

Peilet discloses the handle and the reservoir as claimed except for their specific range size as claimed. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to obtain a size in the specific range as claimed, since it has been held that discovering an optimum value of a result effective variable involves only routine skill in the art.

***Conclusion***

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Miles, Phelan, Liff, Olson, and Wilkeson disclose other brushes having one or more of the claimed features.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tuan N. Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-4892. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (10:00-6:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Justine R. Yu can be reached on (571) 272-4835. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

TN



Tuan Nguyen  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3751  


**Continuation of Attachment(s) 3). Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08), Paper No(s)/Mail Date :7/12/04, 2/24/05, 6/6/05 & 4/7/06.**